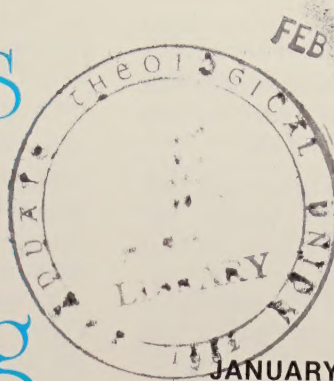




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Leaves of Healing

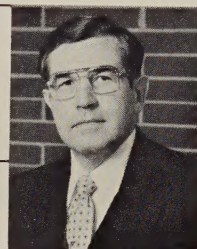


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Time And Eternity

General Overseer Roger W. Ottersen



Time speeds swiftly in its ceaseless course, and you and I are carried along. We are no more able to retard or progress than leaves on a stream or stop their watery flight, or a fragile flower can hold back a whirlwind. We talk up to a man who is perhaps 70 years of age, and ask, "How long is he?" No doubt his reply would be something like this, "Well, it's short and passes so swiftly. It seems but just a few days." We can approach a middle-aged person, or perhaps one a little younger and make the same enquiry, and the answer would be similar. "The years have slipped from our grasp as nothing." It's for this reason, my friend, that James in His epistle writes, "*For what is your life?*" Then he goes on, "*It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away*"

(James 4:14)

Our lives are like the mists that hang over the landscape at daybreak, and then suddenly dissolve in the warmth of the morning sun. The writer of the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes compared life to a shadow. One moment it dances upon the earth's grassy carpet, and then a cloud passes over and the shadow is swallowed up never to return. Hezekiah speaks of life as "a head that is soon cut off." The writer of psalms, in Psalm 90 compared life to "a tale that is told." I like this il-

lustration the best of all, because it is so descriptive.

In the same psalm we read, "*For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. For all our days are passed away in Thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told*"

(Psalm 90:4, 9)

For this reason the psalmist goes on and says, "*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it*"

(Verses 12, 17).

In Psalm 73 our existence is likened to a dream which vanishes when we awake. Have you awakened from a dream in the middle of the night, and then abruptly it is all gone? You have been snapped back to reality and the dream is over. That is what life is like. Suddenly we are going to find ourselves in eternity.

The fact that time passes so swiftly should encourage us to make the most of every moment. We are not to squander away our life, but to redeem the time knowing that the days are evil. No doubt as we look back on life we have regrets, regrets over our folly—folly in neglecting opportunities; foolishness in idling away

precious hours. It is important that we ask the Lord to give us grace to forget those things that are behind, and by His grace and wisdom press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, reaching always for those goals to serve the Living God.

A poem that has made an impression upon me reads as follows:

When as a child I laughed and wept,
Time crept;
When as a youth I dreamed and talked,
Time walked;
When I became a full-grown man,
Time ran;
When older still I daily grew,
Time flew.
Soon I shall find in traveling on,
Time gone.

This is what the writer was trying to say — "You cannot kill time without injuring eternity."

What about your use of time? Do you have time for God? It's amazing that all of us have time for the things we really want to do. The skiing enthusiast will find time to go skiing. If you are a great fisherman you will find time after work or some other time to fish, or if you are a golfer you will always find time to get out on the golf course.

Let me ask you a question. How much time do you spend in the service of the Lord? How often do you spend in the service of the Lord? How often do you meditate upon those things that are eternal? How much time do you spend in fellowship with God?

It is important that we recognize that not one word, not one thought, not one action can be erased from the past for time engraves with a pen of iron. The serious import of the passing of time gives us reason to pause and ponder. You see, my friend, the brevity of our existence, and the eternal consequences of our actions should impress upon us the necessity of redeeming the time, buying up the time, making use of time to do that which is right. I think it is important that we listen to these words someone has written, "Use well opportunity, drift not with the tide; killing time is not murder, it's suicide!" Indeed eternity will magnify that which we have done in time.

I would like to pass on to you a few practical suggestions for your daily life: Always carry with you something to fill the moments that would otherwise be spent in idleness — a New Testament to study and mark as you wait your turn in the dentist's office or some other place; have a Bible text printed or written on a card that you can memorize while riding the bus or train to work; have a notebook to jot down some helpful suggestions in your Christian life, or a prayer request to remind you of the needs of others. These are good ways to redeem the time and make golden investments in eternity.

Eternity will be appreciated only in the measure that we have rightly divided time. If we handle time correctly our eternity will be measured with success. I wonder about your time? There is the story of the doctor who was asked by his patient, who had been in a serious accident, "Doctor, how long will I have to lie here?" The answer to the question was, "Only one day at a time." This taught the patient a very precious lesson, the same lesson God has attempted to teach His people. You see, my friend, if each day is filled with faithfulness then the long years will take care of themselves.

Are you handling time in the right way? Are you giving your life over to Jesus Christ Who is the Author of time? Let us trust in Him Who is eternal! Our times are in His hands.

What's So Wrong With Drinking?

Editorial

How can it be so wrong if so many people are doing it? And many are drinking alcoholic beverages these days—more than at any other time in our nation's history. Seventy-one (71%) of adults 18 and over, say they use alcoholic beverages such as liquor, wine, or beer. Speaking of beer, Senator Thomas Eagleton of Missouri, said recently on the Senate floor: "It (beer) is the mother's milk of American Legion picnics, the sine qua non of a summer evening of professional baseball. It is all that is good and true. Indeed, it made Milwaukee famous."

So, what's all the fuss over a little drinking?

It's not a little drinking we are talking about. It's a national scandal and one of the foremost problems facing America. Pollster George Gallup has reported that one person in four now says an alcohol-related problem has adversely affected his family life. Alcohol is America's number one drug problem. One in every 1,000 Americans is heroin addicted. One in every 20 Americans is addicted to alcohol. For every heroin addict there are nearly 45 alcohol addicts.

Over 10,000 people are killed each year by liquor to every one killed by a mad dog; yet we shoot the dog and we license liquor. But then, with so many people doing it, who is going to vote against it. Drinkers support measures to control alcoholism until it begins to interfere with their own drinking habits, University of California researchers said. There was near unanimous support for more government activity to provide treatment for persons with drinking problems and to keep drunken drivers off the road, the scientist said. But, they added, "when suggested measures begin to restrict individual life styles, we found support dropping."

Just how serious is alcohol abuse in the United States? According to reports from the Gallup Poll of 1978 and from the National Council on Alcoholism, alcohol abuse in the nation is:

- *the third leading cause of death,
- *a factor in one-third of all suicides,

- *a factor in one-half of all violent crime,
- *a factor in one-half of all traffic fatalities,
- *one out of every ten drinkers ends up being an alcoholic.

(They didn't mean to, but they paid no attention to God's Word which warns: "*AT THE LAST it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.*" (Prov. 23:32)

Over 80% of fire deaths, 65% of drownings, 22% of home accidents, 77% of falls, 36% of pedestrian accidents and 55% of arrests are linked to the use of alcohol. About 44% of pilots involved in accidents have been drinking. Violent behavior attributed to alcohol use accounts for approximately 65% of murders, 40% of assaults, 35% rapes, 30% of other sex crimes, 55% of fights or assaults in the home and 60% of cases of child abuse.

In 1978, people in America spent \$9.5 billion on alcoholic beverages, while the economic cost to the nation was \$42.7 billion, with: \$19.7 billion in lost production, \$12.7 billion in health and medical costs, \$5.1 billion in auto accidents, \$2.9 billion in violent crimes, \$1.9 billion social responses, and \$.4 billion in fire losses.

This \$42.7 billion was taken from the public in: higher prices for goods and services of alcohol-impaired personnel, higher premiums for hospital-medical-auto-fire insurance to cover the alcohol-related losses, higher taxes to pay the cost of welfare, criminal justice, research, and needed social services resulting from alcohol consumption.

Yet, many Christians argue for moderate drinking, not caring how their drinking habits may be influencing others, including their children, on how their drinking contributes to the whole problem of alcohol abuse. Who would ever fly the friendly skies if they knew that one plane in ten crashed? Yet the knowledge that one in ten drinkers will become an alcoholic doesn't seem to trouble them at all. No one ever expects it to happen to him—but it does. It is as the writer of Ecclesiastes said: "*Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.*" (Eccles. 8:11)

Earl Minton

At The Last

by Rev. John Alexander Dowie

(Leaves of Healing, Vol. I, 1894-5)

"Well, say what you like, I enjoy a good glass of wine; it never hurts me, and I do not believe it ever will." So spoke a young man, at an evening party, a few years ago. "Poison! they call it poison," continued the young wine drinker, "well, at any rate, it is a remarkable pleasant poison, and I like it." Laughingly saying these words, he filled up his glass with the ruby red wine, and after admiring its color, as he held it up to the light, he quaffed it with a look of intense satisfaction.

Years rolled on. He continued to raise and drink wine. Gradually his fine genius became clouded, his clear eye was bleared, his once strong frame was weakened and then, utterly wrecked, his name was stained with deeds of dishonor, and he fled, a ruined and degraded man, far away from the friends whom he had wronged, and a broken-hearted wife and children whom he had well nigh starved and killed in his drunken madness. One day he received a letter from him, written from a prison, beseeching me to visit him. I did, but at first I could not recognize him until he spoke, so changed and aged did he, though young, appear.

"What brought you here?" I asked. "Wine," he answered. And so it was. He came out of prison, he reformed for a time, but again he fell, and fell to die no more. His body lies in a dishonored drunkard's grave, and his wasted life has ended.

Not long ago, I stood beside that grave. And as I looked upon it, I seemed to hear him say, "I like it, 'tis a pleasant poison," as he laughingly quaffed the red wine that night long ago. Then in that gloomy prison I seemed to hear him, a worn-out, dying man in a prisoner's garb, say, "Wine, cursed wine, brought me here!" And then, in the silence, whilst I stood lost in sad thought, there seemed to come a voice from the blue heavens above me, saying, "*Look not thou upon the wine when it is red...AT THE LAST it is like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.*" —Proverbs 23:32.

Yes, AT THE LAST, it is always so. It still they drink and say, "'tis a pleasant poison," until, as if stung by a path adder, they who drink it die. Oh,

what madness, to nurse such a serpent in one's bosom. What folly to destroy every joy that earth can contain, for pain and agonies, compared to which the most cruel tortures man can inflict are as nothing.

Permit me, kind reader, to press upon thine attention the words inspired by God, which bid thee remember that awful doom which, "at the last," awaits all who trifle with the serpents and adders which lurk in the wine cup.

Do not think that thou art safe, though others may fall. None are safe who drink wine at all. Since the days when righteous Noah, the faithful one amidst a faithless world, "drank of the wine and was drunken," and so fell into awful sin, until these days in which we live, there are none who can drink and be safe. History is full of illustrations of that fact.

Alexander the Great, who conquered well nigh all the countries of which he then knew, was himself conquered by wine, and died through the effects of two nights' indulgence—and thus, "at the last," wine triumphed over and destroyed the man who had conquered the mightiest nations. Belshazzar's kingdom fell, and he was slain on the evening of a feast of wine, as the Scriptures record. And thus it has been with the greatest empires in every period of time. None who drink are safe. Neither age nor talents, nor experience, nor high position, nor sacred offices, afford protection to those who drink the intoxicating cup; for "the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink, the err in vision, they stumble in judgment." (Isaiah 38:7. And, who art thou who drinkest, and yet sayest, "I am safe!" God has told thee, "Wine is a mocker," see thou to it that it no longer mocks thee. Oh, how it has mocked and is mocking poor humanity.

I knew a minister, eloquent and beloved, who was smilingly led along by this fiend named wine, until, "at the last," it hurled him from the pulpit, down, down, down into the depths of sin and poverty, and then mockingly crushed the life out of his dishonored body, amidst a scene of vice and horror. And yet, when he first looked upon the wine, he vainly imagined this serpent's poison of hell's brewing was a "good creature of God."

I knew a mother who drank wine; but it mocked her, and maddened her,

and in her madness she drowned herself "at the last." Her seven children live, but the awful memory of their self-destroyed mother clings to them by day, haunts their dreams by night, and a cruel world stamps the stain of her crime upon their names. Three of them are following hard upon her path. And yet she never thought, when she first drank, that "at the last" she would fill a drunkard's grave.

I knew a clever young mechanic who drank the mocker's cup, and now, "at the last," he is a hopeless lunatic, mocked by endless fears and hopes, and spends his days, and months, and years in bondage, amidst a crowd of idiots and mocking maniacs, when, but for "wine," he would have been, in all probability, happy, prosperous, and useful.

Listen to the words of one of England's greatest geniuses, who died a drunkard, and then see how, "at the last," wine makes the deepest and most hopeless woe. Elia (Charles Lamb) writes—"of my condition there is no hope that I should ever change; the waters have gone over me; but out of the black depths could I be heard, I would cry aloud to all those that have set a foot in that perilous flood. Could the youth to whom the flavour of his first wine is as delicious as the opening scenes of life, or the entry upon some newly discovered paradise, look into my desolation, and be made to understand what a dreary thing it is, when a man shall feel himself going down a precipice with open eyes and a passive will,—to see his destruction and have no power to stop it and yet to feel it all the way emanating from himself; to perceive all goodness emptied out of him, and yet not able to forget a time when it was otherwise; to bear about the piteous spectacle of his own ruin. Could he see my fevered eye feverish with the last night's drinking, and feverish looking forward to this night's repetition of the folly; could he feel the body of death out of which I cry hourly, with feebleness and feebleness outcry, to be delivered,—it were enough to make him dash the sparkling beverage to the earth in all the pride of its mantling temptation."

"AT THE LAST IT BITETH LIKE A SERPENT AND STINGETH LIKE AN ADDER."

Proverbs 23:32



MISSIONS

For Praise & Prayer

"So we ourselves ought to support such people . . . to be fellow workers with them in the truth." III John 8.

Angola, Africa

C.P. 33, Lubango
Rep. Pop de Angola

Dear Faithful Supporters:

As we send you Christmas and New Year greetings, it is with deep gratitude to the Lord for the evidence of His love, grace and presence in our midst over the months. And no less with deep appreciation for each one who has prayed so faithfully for the work here in Angola as well as to all who have given financially. THANK YOU!

On October 8, Darrell and Dr. Steve Foster set off from Kalukembe to again visit our former place of service -Cavango. However, upon arriving at Bela Vista (¾ of the approximately 350 miles), we learned that the nearest government post (20 miles from Cavango) had recently been attacked with 300 reported deaths and much destruction. A number of buildings were burned, including the church -home of one of the church leaders, with Bibles, hymnals and money burned or stolen. For security and other reasons, we were unable to complete the planned visit.

Our colleagues at Menongue report a worsening situation as the population swells and food supplies dwindle. The Bible Institute pupils are especially hard pressed. The believers in an area near Lubango have arranged some six tons of corn for the students but delivery has been delayed due to transport problems and restrictions regulating produce going from one district to another. Hopefully, the students will have their corn soon.

Classes with the five students in the Bible College are going well. In spite of increase military activity in most areas, we are grateful for safety in necessary road trips that are made. The spiritual ministry continues to have its impact country-wide as churches are full to overflowing, many are professing Christ as Saviour and being baptized. However, there is a serious shortage of Portuguese and Umbundu Bibles and Testaments. A large percentage of the congregations are young people who have never owned a Bible but are now searching for truth and reality. Of course, the Christ of Christmas is the

answer - Jesus, the Son of the living God!

A school teacher posted some 225 miles from Lubango has visited us a number of times over the past three or four years during school holidays. The only way he can travel is on a military convoy. He always returns with a copy or two of whatever Christian literature we happen to have on hand. Friends, pupils and colleagues constantly request of him use of the books and he mentions the hunger for such literature in that isolated area.

Recently another young school teacher (of Catholic background) from another area came by searching for the truth. He was nearly beside himself with joy upon seeing some of the books we get from time to time. After a long chat with him, he signed up as a student in the Bible correspondence course. Pray that he may come to see the Light and accept our Christ of Christmas as his Saviour. Pray also for funds for Christian literature, including Bibles.

All the bikes and motor bike are on their way to their destinations. Having to travel by military convoy complicates life in every way, but it is amazing that there is still transport to many areas of Angola in view of the increased guerrilla activity.

May God bless and use you for His glory.

Sincerely in Him,
Darrell and Barbara Hockersmith

Philippines

(Letter from Larry and Jan Allen)

Kibungan, Benguet

Dear Prayer Partners,

Sometimes we fail to really appreciate God's everyday blessings until we have gone without them for a while. When we tried to return to Kibungan, back in August, seemingly endless monsoon rains and accompanying landslides on the narrow mountain road caused numerous delays, clothes had to be dried over a hissing pressure lantern at night, and mud was everywhere! The outhouse had gaping

holes in the roof and a number of rotten floor boards, and there was no one to help with the laundry. Even the water pipe was plugged, so I had to haul all our water buckets from up the hill. I couldn't help wondering, as I took my turn scrubbing out diapers by hand or amusing baby Robby, what we were really here for!

Hopefully, those few frustrations served a purpose. It's harder now to take for granted the blue skies and sunshine that mark the end of the rainy season **or** the two girls that have been coming before school every morning to do laundry **or** the electric lights **or** our new indoor bathroom with a genuine shower and water seal toilet. Thank you, Lord!

Teaching Christy and Marty all the normal third and first grade subjects continues to be a challenge for Jan, with nightly lesson plan preparation part of the daily routine. She enjoys it, however, and the kids seem to be responding well. Thank you for praying!

We also asked you to pray for someone to help take care of Robby. Well, for more than a month now, a lady who runs a small variety store not a hundred yards from our house has been baby-sitting Robby every morning during school hours, leaving Jan free to teach and me to translate! Again, thank you for praying.

By the time you receive this letter, I hope to be finished with the first draft of selected portions of Genesis, around 850 verses in all. Why Genesis? To help give the small but growing group of believers some background to the many Old Testament characters and events referred to in the New Testament. Please pray for mental alertness and available translation helpers as I revise the first draft and check it for clarity with several others in the community. It is a great privilege to be translating again! Thank you for making it possible.

Yours in Christ's love,
Larry and Jan Allen
SIL, Box 2270, Manila 2801
Philippines

Testimony Of Kathy Hackemer



"Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance."

—Psalm 16:5 and 6

I could not identify with these verses during Convocation Week of 1981; it was one of the worst times of my life, or I had realized a week earlier that I was physically unable to return to playing the organ.

In June of 1981, I spent three weeks in traction in the hospital with a ruptured disc. We discussed surgery, but decided instead to try bed rest and exercise as the path to God's healing. Horst and the children took over the household responsibilities so that I could spend the summer in bed. Being confined was a new experience, but there were immediate positive aspects. I could read to my heart's content, have the time to visit with family members and friends, and came to enjoy walking as my strength increased. Listening to our services each Sunday morning brought tears, and I am grateful for this broadcast as a part of our total church outreach.

By September, I was eager to return to playing, but after three services I knew I could not continue, especially with all the extra Convocation service coming up. I met with Pastor Ottersen and offered to resign, but he was kind enough to suggest instead a six-months' leave of absence.

During the next few weeks, I was extremely discouraged and questioning. I couldn't understand why God would not let me use the talent He had given me. I continued walking and exercising, partially with the hope of being healed by Easter, but also to work off the frustration and anger I felt.

A month later, God's perfect timing and watch-care suddenly became evi-

dent. On October 28, 1981, Horst was hit almost head-on by a drunk driver going south in the northbound lanes of Highway 41. His car landed upside-down in the median ditch and his head broke the windshield. He told me later that as the car rolled over, he felt as though he were suspended in slow motion and had a sense of great calm that he would be protected. Several days after the accident he began to have intense headaches which have not let up to this day.

Suddenly, a lot of the daily responsibilities that Horst had shouldered for me were passed back to me. And God had arranged five months of freedom from church responsibilities so that I could use the energies at home and still get the rest I needed for my own recuperation! By Easter, God had healed me sufficiently that I had the strength to return to playing each week, and what a joy that has been!

Our lives have changed as a result of these experiences. Horst is now at home on disability with almost continuous headaches which have not responded to any form of treatment. And yet, we can already see the good that has come. I needed the quiet and the rest and the time for reflection that was forced upon me. Our exuberant children have assumed responsibilities and learned to be sensitive to others. Even four-year-old Heidi will tell her brother and sisters, "Shh — Daddy has a bad headache today." We have a daily example of the courage of a man in pain who is trying to keep a normal family life going. We have been encouraged and supported by the continuing prayers and love and concern expressed during these months by friends in this church and elsewhere.

We are confident that God is Love and that He is with us and could heal Horst instantly if the time were right. Of course, we question "Why", and "When." Some days are very discouraging and it is hard to be patient. But in the past few weeks, God has reinforced our confidence in His plan and perfect timing through another experience.

Around Thanksgiving, I discovered lumps in my breast. Our doctor felt that surgery was necessary and should be scheduled as soon as possible. Because of my responsibilities for the Messiah, the Christmas musicale and several other programs, the earliest date available was December 13. On December 9, I returned to the doctor, who confirmed that the lumps were

gone and cancelled the surgery. God had healed—and just in time!

God, after all, is God. It comforts me to know that He would not be God if I could understand all that He allows to enter my life. I know that He gives the strength for each day. With the Psalmist, I trust that "surely I have a delightful inheritance."



Amazing Church Growth

Editorial

In the United States, where we have trained pastors, abundant opportunity for Bible study, all the Bibles and Bible-study helps we could wish for, ease of transportation for getting to and from church, and perfect freedom to attend church all we want, there seems to be relatively few who are fully committed to Christ and to Christian growth and witness. Yet, in countries where there is little or no religious freedom, where it is difficult to obtain Bibles or Christian literature, and where life at its best is harsh, there is great interest in the things of God, churches are overflowing, and people gladly risk persecution in their bold witness for Christ.

In Uganda, a country where Christians have suffered terribly for many years, about three-fourths of the population have become Christian and there is such a hunger for the Word of God that when a shipment of Bibles now reaches that country, it is of national interest.

In Mozambique, a Communist-controlled country, the church has grown at a phenomenal rate. In his latest newsletter, Dr. Robert Foster, President of Africa Evangelical Fellowship wrote of an event that caused great rejoicing:

"Gordon Legg returned from a seven week pastoral visit to Mozambique in early October. He and his wife were the last AEF'ers to work there and were forced to leave in '61. At that time 3,000 people were listed as baptized believers, meeting in forty-five congregations. On his return now he found 44,000 listed as baptized believers and 450 local churches! Though he travelled long-unrepaired "roads" in a 27 year old pick-up without brakes or lights and hardly with gears, in a country whose economy is chaotic, he arrived at every preaching point and always

ate, though he lost some weight. God renewed his strength daily for the arduous journeys so that at seventy-one, he didn't faint or falter. The churches have 87 pastors, and 1,100 evangelists and village leaders, of whom only three have had any formal Bible training, so they are pleading for missionaries to come and teach them and to translate the whole Bible (they have the New Testament). Already several people are earnestly seeking God's will for service in Mozambique. In addition, the churches need help with transport, hymn books, TEE material and Portuguese Bibles."

In China, where every effort was made to stamp out religion, the church has grown fifty-fold since 1949. According to careful estimate, there are approximately fifty million Protestant believers in China in spite of severe hardship persecution. How do you account for such amazing growth? Jonathan Chao and John C. Wang of the Chinese Church Research Center in Hong Kong, list seven reasons from their analysis of various interviews:

1. FAITHFULNESS. Pastors were faithful to the Lord, enduring many years in prison for their witness. This in turn commanded more respect and following by the believers.

2. SACRIFICE. Believers are willing to pay the price of discipleship.

3. BOLDNESS. Preachers risk arrest, beatings and imprisonment daily as they go across the county or provincial line to preach the gospel.

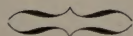
4. BODY LIFE. Believers have learned to share and minister to one another, and in so doing, have developed their spiritual gifts.

5. DISCIPLINE. The church in China is audacious enough to purge cancerous elements from the body. In order to enjoy the special spiritual power from God, the Chinese church knows it must remain blameless before Him.

6. PRAYER. Many churches have prayer meetings every night from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m.

7. OBEDIENCE. The Chinese church grows because the believers are obedient to the call of the Great Commission.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO REVITALIZE THE CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES?



Happy Marriages Don't Just Happen

Editorial

With the rising rate of divorce there is also a rising rate of books available to help couples have a happy marriage. Many of these books emphasize the need for meaningful communication between husband and wife, as well as between parent and child. They also point out the way—or technique—of communication. Such books can be very helpful, but the most important ingredient in communication cannot be obtained from books: that is, the WILL to communicate.

If I have all the knowledge of the purposes and techniques of communication, but do not have the love and determination to communicate, it profits me nothing. It is natural for us to have higher expectations of our mate that we are prepared to give ourselves. It is natural to see the flaws in our mate and be unaware of those in our own lives (see Matthew 7:1-5). Human love is basically self-love. Marriage happiness depends on a give and take relationship, and when the "give" on the part of our mate is less than we think it ought to be, our love begins to wither and can eventually die—or turn to hate.

Paul, in his great Ephesian epistle declares the quality of love that husband and wife are to have for each other, and in 1st Corinthians 13, he describes that love. Phillips translation of this passage is as follows:

"This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience—it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive; it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance.

Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy. It does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad with all good men when truth prevails.

Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen."

Again, it is quite possible to know how this quality of love manifests itself without possessing it ourselves. I believe it is for that reason that Paul begins his great treatise on the relationship between husband and wife in mar-

riage with the command: *"Be filled with the Spirit."* (Ephesians 5:18) Our relationship with one another is the result of our relationship with God. To overcome our human selfishness and pride—which so affects our marital relationship destructively—we need to live a life of dependence on God for His grace and power. We need to be filled (controlled) with the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who gives to us the quality of love that is supernatural—that is longsuffering and kind and joyful, even when put to the test. To be filled with the Spirit, of course, requires that we maintain a close fellowship with God through Jesus Christ, in faith and obedience.

For those who are seeking to live close to God, books or articles on communication skills in marriage can be very helpful. Without that, all the knowledge in the world cannot help us. Paul expressed this truth for all of us in Romans 7:18, 19 and declared for us the answer in Romans 8:2 and following:

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not.

For the good that I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do."

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

With the foregoing as an introduction, let me now quote (with permission) an editorial by Dr. Spiros Zodhiates in the PULPIT HELPS, of January, 1980.

HOW TO COMMUNICATE

When husband and wife lose the art of communicating the marriage is on the rocks. When a parent fails to communicate with the children the gap becomes a chasm.

If you want to really communicate within and outside of the family, bear these basic principles in mind.

DETERMINE in your heart that you must communicate in order to live in this world of social interaction. Determine to understand others and to be understood by them.

LISTEN CAREFULLY. Don't interrupt. Allow the other person to empty his or her heart before you offer solutions. Sometimes you must listen and never answer. Whatever your answer may be it must be cloaked in love. Become a freezer to deposit hot words produced by others.

UNDERSTAND what the other person wishes to communicate to you. Sometimes people fail to express their thoughts in words. Penetrate deeper than expressions allow. Understand the person before you try to analyze the situation.

COMMUNICATE WITH CALMNESS. Don't allow yourself to explode emotionally even if the other person does. You diffuse the bomb and you can save not only your life but another's.

AVOID ABSOLUTES. Never accuse with words such as "You are never composed... You are good for nothing... You don't love me... You're always worrying, etc." Find justification for the unusual behavior. The other person will become what you see him or her potentially becoming. Don't condemn. Find a foundation on which you can build.

DON'T EVER RIDICULE. Nothing will estrange someone more than when he or she realizes you are making fun of them. Concern yes, but never ridicule.

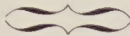
STATE YOUR POSITION CLEARLY. Ambiguity brings confusion and confusion creates desperation. Don't speak meaningless words. Let your words project your personality of compassion. You don't have to agree with the other person. It is an art to make the other person agree with your conclusion. Point out clearly the consequences of the various choices that can be taken in a given situation. Make the other person love you not necessarily for what you say but for the way you say it. Truth uncouthly stated hurts, but lovingly embellished heals. Love does not make us hypocrites but therapists.

ACCENT THE POSSIBILITY OF HARMONIOUS CO-EXISTENCE OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE. The eye feeds the hand and vice versa although they are different. Husband and wife and children don't all have to think like to live together harmoniously. Mutual respect of constitutional differences must be communicated. Your marriage and parenting will hit the rocks if you impose your views instead of having them respected

because you are what you are.

WELL SAID

A marriage is happy when the couple are as deeply in love as they are in debt. A modern house is one where a switch regulates everything but the children.



He gives His angels charge
Of those who sleep;
But He Himself stands by us
When we weep!

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of His saints."*

—Psalm 116:115



Scene from the Sermon on the Mount
Pic - Courtesy of Finley Photography

Zion Passion Play

Preparations for the 1983 season of Zion Passion Play are getting underway and we are again expecting sell-out performances. We ask you for your prayer support for each member of the cast and for each one who attends. It is our desire that God would greatly use this means of presenting the glorious Gospel of Christ to touch lives deeply

and to lead to faith in Christ those who come who have not made that a commitment. First performance will be on Good Friday and then each Saturday night in April and May. Music for the Passion Play is provided by the Zion Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Timothy Allen and by soloists and chorus who are members of the cast.

Update On Camp Zion Advance

Plans are rapidly materializing for a new two-story, all-purpose building at Camp Zion. On the ground floor would be the kitchen, dining room (which could also serve as a meeting room), and canteen, and with sleeping accommodations on the second floor. It will be designed for year-round use—for Fall and Winter Camp as well as for weekend retreats.

An architect is presently drawing plans for the building, after which it

will be analyzed for cost of materials. It is expected that much of the actual construction will be by volunteer labor.

This new building is necessary as our present kitchen and dining facilities no longer meet State health codes. We therefore have the choice of closing camp or erecting a new building which will meet present standards. Since Camp Zion has been such an important part of our program and has been so blessed of God in the salvation and spiritual growth of our young people, as well as being of blessing to all ages, we felt God's leading in planning for the continuation of the camp and enlarging its usefulness.

Cont. on next page

Due to our very tight budget, no money can be taken from our General funds to finance the new building. It all must come from special gifts, designated for that purpose. We presently have on hand the amount of just over \$68,000, which represents great sacrificial giving on the part of our people. Approximately \$200,000 will be needed to complete the building and improve the road into our camp area. We will build as the Lord provides the funds—and we praise God for the way He has been supplying. As important as this building is to the ministry of our local church, in no way can we let this detract from our reaching out with the Gospel to others in our missionary commitment and responsibility. God has given to us a great open door of ministry in many needy areas of the world and we must not close our eyes or hearts to these needs.



A Boy and His Dad

One dad said to another: "I'm no model father. All I'm trying to do is behave so that when people tell my son that he reminds them of me, he'll stick out his chest instead of his tongue."

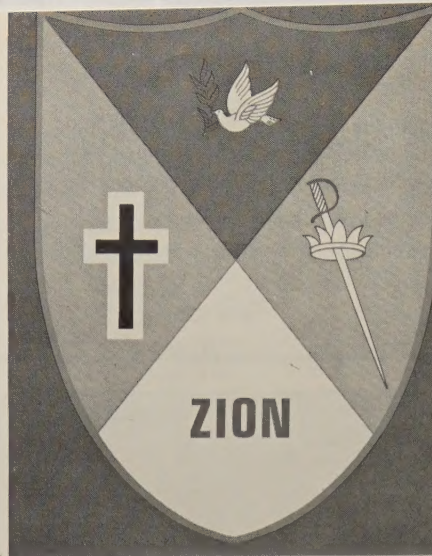
There are little eyes upon you,
and they're watching night and day;
There are little ears that quickly
take in every word you say;
There are little hands all eager
to do everything you do;
And a little boy who's dreaming of
the day he'll be like you.

You're the little fellow's idol;
you're the wisest of the wise;
In his little mind, about you no
suspicions ever rise.

He believes in you devoutly,
holds that all you say and do,
He will say and do, in your way,
when he is grown up like you.

There's a wide-eyed little fellow,
who believes you're always right;
And his ears are always open,
and he watches day and night;
You are setting an example,
every day in all you do:
For the little boy who's waiting
to grow up to be like you.

—From PULPIT HELPS, Jan., 1980
Used with permission.



"Holding Forth the Word of Life"

Philippians 2:16

CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
An Evangelical Protestant Fellowship World Headquarters — Zion, Illinois
Roger W. Ottersen, General Overseer

A Parent's Prayer

By Gary C. Meyers

"Oh, God, make me a better parent. Help me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say and to understand all their questions kindly.

Keep me from interrupting them, talking back to them and contradicting them. Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me. Give me the courage to confess my sins against my children and ask their forgiveness, when I know that I have done wrong.

May I not vainly hurt the feelings of my children. Forbid that I should laugh at their mistakes, or resort to shame and ridicule as punishment. Let me not tempt a child to lie and steal. So guide me hour by hour that I may demonstrate by all I say and do that honesty produces happiness.

Reduce, I pray, the meanness in me. May I cease to nag; and when I am out of sorts, help me, O Lord, to hold my tongue. Blind me to the little errors of my children and help me to see the good things that they do. Give me a ready word for honest praise.

Help me to treat my children as those of their own age, but let me not exact of them the judgments and conventions of adults. Allow me not to rob them of the opportunity to wait upon themselves, to think, to choose and to make their own decisions.

Forbid that I should ever punish them for my selfish satisfaction. May I grant them all their wishes that are reasonable and have the courage always to withhold a privilege which I know will do them harm.

Make me so fair and just, so considerate and companionable to my children that they will have genuine

esteem for me. Fit me to be loved and imitated by my children. Oh God, do give me calm and poise and self control."

I Just Can't Find The Time

I know that the Bible says: "Man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live," but I just can't find the time to read God's Word. In the morning it's a rush to get to work on time. There's no time during lunch break, and when I come home at night, I am usually in a rush to get to some meeting or activity, work on the car or another project, attend class, or view my favorite program on television. I can't find the time for Bible reading... so I make time for it, even as I make time for eating, sleeping, working, and whatever else is important to me. Since "man does not live by bread only," I MUST take time to develop my spiritual life.

The Lord's Day

"Whatever else I ponder and wherever I may plod,
I must remember in my heart this day belongs to God.
This day is meant to honor Him who understands my cares,
And who is not too occupied to listen to my prayers.
And so I try to live my life according to His way,
Because I know that Sunday is His very special day.
These four and twenty hours are the least that I can give,
To say my thanks because He has enabled me to live.
And that is why when Sunday comes,
I set the day apart
And offer God the gratitude that fills my humble heart.